

**WP(PIL) NO: 133 of 2023**

Dr. Shashikala Kopanati, and Others

...Petitioner(s)

Vs.

The State Of Andhra Pradesh and Others

...Respondent(s)

Advocate for Petitioners:

Mr.D. S. Sivadarshan

Advocate for Respondents:

Government Pleader for Home

**CORAM : THE CHIEF JUSTICE DHIRAJ SINGH THAKUR
SMT JUSTICE VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA****DATE : 21st August 2024****PER DHIRAJ SINGH THAKUR, CJ (Oral):**

The present petition has been filed in public interest with a view to highlight the slaughter and consumption of donkeys. The slaughter of donkeys for purposes of consumption is stated to be in violation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, as also Section 429 of the IPC and the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughterhouse) Rules, 2001.

2. The petitioners claim that the population of donkeys is waning in the state of Andhra Pradesh and that the donkey meat was being consumed on account of certain wrong notions, which certain sections of the society entertain. It is stated that the donkeys were being slaughtered illegally on roadsides, under flyovers and behind makeshift stalls. It is stated that there is no effective implementation of the existing provisions of law and the illegality could be prevented if the law was effectively implemented.

3. A counter-affidavit has been filed on behalf of the respondents through the Deputy Inspector General of Police wherein the stand taken is that a circular has been issued, dated 07.11.2023, and circulated to all the Commissioners of Police and Superintendents of Police to ensure strict compliance of the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 as also the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules, 2017.

It is also stated that any deviation if noticed would be viewed seriously and the appropriate action would be initiated against the erring officials. The affidavit further states that in terms of the directions issued by the Director General of Police, all police units were strictly complying with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act by deploying officers for regular checking of illegal transport of donkeys and registering cases against the persons who were so involved.

4. It is also stated that vehicles were also being seized and strict action was being taken against the offenders. Details have also been placed along with the affidavit reflecting the various cases which have been registered against the offenders. In view of the fact that action is already being taken strictly against the offenders, we do not wish to issue any further orders in the matter.

5. Needless to say that it will be open to the petitioners to bring to the notice of the concerned police or other authorities regarding any incident which otherwise constitutes an offence under the aforementioned laws, and action would be taken by the officers concerned based upon such information immediately.

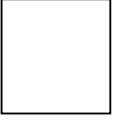
Accordingly, the Writ Petition stands disposed of. No costs.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

DHIRAJ SINGH THAKUR, CJ

VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA, J

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**HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE DHIRAJ SINGH THAKUR, CHIEF JUSTICE
&
HON'BLE SMT. JUSTICE VENKATA JYOTHIRMAI PRATAPA**

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DATE : 21.08.2024

AKN